

**SELF-CLEANING CONNECTOR****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention concerns a connector (110). The connector includes at  
5 least one tunnel (124) having a first portion (126) and a second portion (128)  
and at least one pin (120). At least a portion of the pin is positioned within the  
tunnel. The first portion of the tunnel has a first inner surface (140). The first  
inner surface forces at least a portion of the pin in at least a first  
predetermined direction as the connector engages a corresponding connector  
10 (112). Contaminants are at least partially removed from at least one of the  
pin and the corresponding connector as the first inner surface forces the pin  
in the first predetermined direction.